



Economic Recovery Strategies Scorecard

The Mayor, Council and City Manager recognize the need to maintain a supportive business environment as part of Tucson's overall economic recovery plan. This has led to several new policies, partnerships, projects and processes that promote business.

Policies



Incentives

Mayor and Council have initiated several incentives to attract and retain business in the City:

primary jobs incentive
impact fee deferrals

downtown infill incentives
permit fee waivers

solar fee waivers
flexible code requirements



Water Service Enhancements

A new water service boundary was approved August 2010 by Mayor and Council which will protect the City from unexpected costs related to providing service outside of the city. It also provides an incentive for businesses to locate in the City. Additional meter sizes and water assurances provide new flexibility to businesses.



Infill Incentives

Mayor and Council have adopted zones, districts and ordinances to encourage infill development in target areas. Overlay zones include development incentives and improved multi-use transit. New areas include: **Downtown Core and Greater Downtown Infill Incentive District** and the Downtown **Urban Overlay District**.



Land Use Code Revisions

Mayor and Council have modified land use, sign and other requirements to reduce burdens on business. **Commercial parking, loading zone, certificate of occupancy and sign requirements** were reduced or relaxed. Development review **expiration times** were extended. **Renewable energy generation** is allowed in more places as of July, 2010. And a new **Safe Harbor Ordinance** allows businesses affected by transportation construction projects to remain in place longer and to ease code and zoning burdens when they relocate.

Partnerships



Economic Development Partnerships

The City of Tucson maintains formal, long-term contractual relationships with economic development agencies including Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau, Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities and Downtown Tucson Partnership. Informal standing groups such as the Development Services Advisory Committee invite stakeholders to help create processes and policies that encourage business.



Business Outreach

Business forums and "Tucson Means Business" workshops were conducted in Wards at throughout the year to connect entrepreneurs with Department heads and business support organizations. Dates for additional events will be posted at tucsonaz.gov/business and through Ward web pages and newsletters.



Economic & Workforce Development RFP Process

The City has created a new competitive process to award Economic and Workforce Development funds. The process, recommended by a citizens committee, increases service delivery efficiency, accountability and transparency. Winning agencies will use awards for new company financing, job creation, local industry development, small businesses assistance, workforce training, and tourist attraction.

Projects



Revitalization Projects

The City is focused on catalytic revitalization projects in downtown, the region's economic and social center, to ensure its vibrancy. Such projects include the **Modern Streetcar**, which has already encouraged commercial, residential and student housing development. Projects in other areas of the City include **The Bridges**, a 350-acre retail, residential and Biosciences development.



Solar One Stop

This initiative made possible by a Solar America Cities Grant and Clean Renewable Energy Bonds is focused on energy savings throughout the region. Solaronestopaz.org and a demonstration site provide resources to businesses, non-profits and residents involved or interested in solar energy production.



Corridor Improvements

Voter-approved infrastructure enhancement is occurring in key areas to increase capacity and improve traffic flow. Active and upcoming intersection projects on Grant, Harrison and Houghton to name a few also create private sector construction jobs. The new Safe Harbor Ordinance helps protect businesses from the negative impacts of road construction.

Processes



Certificate of Occupancy Streamlining

In 2010, the Certificate of Occupancy process was streamlined to exempt many new businesses using existing buildings from parking, screening, buffers and landscaping requirements. As well, the Planning & Development Services Department stays open late on the last Thursday of every month to issue Certificates of Occupancy.



Ombudsperson Program

An ombudsperson is a central point of contact at the City for significant development and construction projects. The ombudsperson troubleshoots, facilitates meetings involving city staff, and helps identify solutions to maintain project momentum.



Green Business Certification

Businesses in the Green Business Certification Program receive valuable energy, water, waste and pollution audits and technical expertise in order to reduce resource consumption for no charge. Businesses are given marketing materials once certified and also benefit through the savings that come with reducing energy, water and waste.



Building Official

In August 2010, Mayor and Council approved the hire of a Building Official to ensure appropriate service delivery on key projects as well as all building projects in the community. The new Official will oversee efficient project review, process improvements including field permitting and end-to-end inspections.



Concurrent Development Review

Developers can now take advantage of grouping all site reviews into one submittal. The **Development Package Review** is a concurrent review process that has reduced the review timeline up to 50% for some firms. In coming months the process will be standardized and expanded. <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/site-review>



Land Use Code Reformatting

In addition to land use revisions, the City is reorganizing the code to make it more user-friendly. When complete there will be a **Uniform Development Code, Administrative Manual and Technical Manual**. Planning and Development Services is also adding **Sustainable Land Use** options for sites and buildings.

Go to tucsonaz.gov/pdf/SWP-econ.pdf for more strategies